

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

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1. (currently amended) A riser connector for connecting a first ~~tubular to a~~ and second tubulars of a riser; the connector comprising a first portion on the first tubular and a second portion on the second tubular, wherein the first and second portions each have ~~tubular is provided with two axially extending unthreaded portions which are load bearing and allow the transfer of loads between the tubulars, and in the assembled connector are mutually parallel, wherein the first axially extending portion on each tubular is greater in length than the second axially extending portion on each tubular and wherein the first and second portions have mutually engaging threads.~~

2. (previously cancelled)

3. (previously cancelled)

4. (previously cancelled)

5. (previously cancelled)

6. (previously cancelled)

7. (currently amended) A riser connector as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the axially extending portions on each tubular are provided above and below the threaded portion.

8. (currently amended) A riser connector as claimed in Claim 7 wherein a spigot and a socket comprise the axially extending portions on each tubular.

9. (currently amended) A riser connector as claimed in Claim 8 wherein the spigot is provided between the tubular's threaded face and terminus.

10. (currently amended) A riser connector as claimed in Claim 9 wherein the spigot on the first tubular engages the socket on the second tubular.

11. (currently amended) A riser connector as claimed in Claim 10 wherein the spigot on the second tubular engages the socket on the first tubular.

12. (currently amended) A riser connector as claimed in Claim 11 wherein the first tubular comprises a pin connector.

13. (currently amended) A riser connector as claimed in Claim 12 wherein the second tubular comprises a box connector.

14. (currently amended) A riser connector as claimed in Claim 13 wherein the socket of the first tubular and spigot on the second tubular are greater in length than the socket of the second tubular and spigot of the first tubular.

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15. (currently amended) A riser connector as claimed in Claim 14 wherein the axially extending portions are parallel to the axis of the tubulars.

16. (currently amended) A riser connector as claimed in Claim 15 wherein the first and second tubulars have a tapered profile.

17. (currently amended) A riser connector as claimed in Claim 16 wherein the tapered portions of the first and second tubulars are the threaded portions of the first and second tubulars and have co-operating tapers to facilitate mating of the two portions.

18. (currently amended) A method for connecting a first tubular to a second tubular in a riser via a riser connector, the riser connector comprising a first portion on the first tubular and a second portion on the second tubular, wherein the first and second portions each have each ~~tubular is provided with two axially extending unthreaded portions which in the assembled connector are mutually parallel, in which the first axially extending portion on each tubular is greater in length than the second axially extending portion on each tubular,~~ the method comprising the steps of:

gripping a first tubular at a position spaced from its terminus;

~~inserting the axially extending unthreaded portions on each tubular into corresponding recesses on the other tubular;~~

engaging the first and second tubulars;

gripping the second tubular; and

applying torque between the tubulars.

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19. (new) A riser connector as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the first and second portions have mutually engaging threaded portions.

20. (new) A riser connector as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the axially extending portions are unthreaded.

21. (new) A riser connector as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the axially extending portions are load-bearing and allow the transfer of loads between the tubulars.

22. (new) A riser connector as claimed in Claim 21 wherein the axially extending portions allow the transfer of bending loads between the tubulars.

23. (new) A riser connector as claimed in Claim 1 wherein first and second axially extending portions are provided on each tubular.

24. (new) A riser connector as claimed in Claim 23 wherein the first axially extending portion on each tubular is greater in length than the second axially extending portion on each tubular.

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